



Conservation Conversations

Division of Conservation
Department of Natural Resources
Energy and Environment Cabinet

Issue No. 14

From the Chairman's Desk

The Districts in Good Standing program has now been on the books for almost a year, and although the transition into the program has not always been smooth, it continues to be an important program for Kentucky's conservation districts. In these ever tightening budgetary times, it is increasingly more important that we can prove to our legislators and fiscal courts that we are being as careful as possible with the public's money. I would like to take the time to commend the 44 districts which were initially able to attain the 100 percent level in the program. The Soil and Water Conservation Commission appreciates the hard work that those districts put in to make sure that they reached the 100 percent level. I would also like to personally thank the four field representatives (Kimberly Bartley, David Keltner, Crystal Renfro and Pam Williams) who worked tirelessly to make sure that a majority of their districts reached the 100 percent rating. To date we are up to 67 districts at 100 percent, 11 districts at 90 percent and 43 districts still at 75 percent. The commission encourages districts to work with

their field representatives to improve their performance in the Districts in Good Standing and to contact the division staff if they have any questions.

It is almost time for the General Assembly to be back in session, so I hope that conservation district supervisors across Kentucky have continued to keep in contact with their legislators regarding the needs of the conservation districts. We are hoping for the passage of two funding increases this year: an increase in direct aid of \$1.8 million and an increase in the state cost share program from \$3 million to at least the previously funded level of \$6 million but preferably back to the \$9 million level. We all know the importance of these state cost share dollars in our communities, and the administrative funds from the state cost share program and the direct aid program are the only way that some conservation districts can afford to continue to serve their communities. Please join with me in contacting your legislators to urge them to fully fund these important programs.

The commission is planning to have a sign-up period for the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share program next year. However, the timing of the sign-up will be dependent upon the General Assembly's biannual budget. Once the budget has been approved, the commission will review the amount of funding for state cost share and announce the next sign-up period. Work is currently taking place to incorporate soil quality and nutrient management practices in the state cost share program. Hopefully this will just be the beginning as we start to dive into the topic of soil health. Managing soil health must begin with how you think about your soil. Keep your eyes open for more information to follow.

Sincerely,

John Denton, Chairman
Soil and Water
Conservation Commission

Pulaski County's Hay Wrapper Helps Landowners

The Pulaski County Conservation District purchased an inline bale wrapper in the spring of 2010. The district wanted to provide an additional service to Pulaski County landowners which would utilize an alternative method to store forage.

The wrapper is capable of wrapping up to five feet in diameter bales; although the average bale size for the wet hay is approximately four feet in diameter. Last year 2,725 bales were wrapped, and so far this year over 2,400 bales have been wrapped. The cost to the landowner is \$5 per bale plus a \$30

setup fee, which includes the plastic, wrapper delivery/setup and operator. Tim Prather operates the wrapper for the district and does the scheduling and maintenance. The landowners need to have the hay hauled to the wrapping site when Prather arrives, and they need to use a tractor and loader to set the hay onto the machine. So far, Prather has been able to travel around the county to wrap for the landowners in a timely manner. The key to Prather getting to everyone is the landowners calling him several days ahead and keeping the communication ongoing as

the weather, drying time or machinery problems change the original schedule. Additionally, the Pulaski County Recycling Center provides an environmentally friendly way to dispose of the used plastic. The Pulaski County Conservation District feels that the wrapper enables landowners to harvest their forage in a timely manner and preserve the nutritional value in a cost-effective manner.

For detailed information about harvesting high moisture hay and some advantages and disadvantages refer to UK publication AGR-173.

Martin County Promotes Art and Writing Contest

For the past three years the Martin County Conservation District board of supervisors has been hosting an informational incentive breakfast for Martin County school principals. The purpose is to increase knowledge of and participation in the Jim Claypool Art and Conservation Writing contests. The guests are treated to a breakfast consisting of homemade biscuits, hand-made butter and preserves, bacon, country eggs, gravy and fried potatoes, all prepared by the Martin County Conservation

District board of supervisors and staff. This event was developed to increase the participation in the art and writing contest since the district saw a dramatic decline in participation with the transition from the paper tabloid to the web-based version of the contest.

After the meal the board discusses the details of the contest including the theme, student honors and recognitions, school awards and the importance of providing environmental education to students. An information

packet is also provided with all details of the contest for each school principal to take back to their schools for the teachers. The Martin County Conservation District board sponsors many environmental education opportunities for students, but the art and writing contest is the longest running program sponsored by the district; and their goal is to make every effort possible so that each student in the county has the opportunity to participate.

Mercer County Arbor Day Celebration

On April 29 the Mercer County Conservation District hosted what will now be their annual Arbor Day celebration held at the new Mercer County High School.

The newly built high school had no landscaping and was in need of trees, so the district saw the opportunity to promote conservation and involve students at the same time. Each year on Arbor Day the district will plant a large tree in honor of the first grade class. The Future Farmers of America club offered to plant the tree and establish what will become a garden with a walking trail. One of the requirements decided upon by the school system and the conservation district was that the district

would plant trees that were native to Mercer County. The native American Beech was chosen to be planted for the graduating class of 2022. Each tree will be identified with a marker that states the species and graduating class.

All of the first graders in the county were invited to the celebration, along with Sen. Jimmie Higdon who kicked off the ceremony. Joyce Bender with the Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission spoke about the tree and its importance in Kentucky. The Mercer County Board of Education was present and pointed out that they were very appreciative to work with the conservation district. The conservation district



FFA members plant a tree in front of an audience of first graders.

board of supervisors hopes that this program will be a great success and continue indefinitely.

Taylor County's Dead Animal Removal Program

Dead animal disposal seems to be the hot topic across the state right now with companies both new and old closing doors and raising prices. Almost every conservation district board is making the removal of dead animals as a top priority and moving forward with different programs. The Taylor County Conservation District is no different. When Griffin Industries, the former dead animal disposal service, announced that they would close their doors last year, the board of supervisors and the local fiscal court sprang into action.

Both the board and fiscal court knew the importance of keeping a program in the county and trying to keep the cost as low as possible. They explored every option from composting to contracting with a new company, but none were cost effective and efficient for all involved. The board discovered a company in Russell County that incinerates the carcasses. A&S Livestock is picking

up for individual landowners with no contract required with the county. The landowner is charged \$60 for hogs and sheep, \$75 for cows and \$100 for bulls and horses. The landowner then has the opportunity to be reimbursed 100 percent of the cost by the conservation district. The pickup

service is very timely and consistent, and the district has received no complaints. The funds for this program are coming from the support of the local fiscal court, an environmental grant, conservation district and Taylor County Phase I tobacco funds.

The district decided to use some funding to promote the program in a very



Sign to be used by Taylor County residents to show they have used the dead animal removal program.

positive and eye-catching way. They had signs made that will be given to all the landowners that use the program to post on their farm in hopes of promoting the importance of dead animal removal and the protection of water quality.

Chairman Morris Horn said, "This service is vital to the livestock producers, and it is the re-

sponsibility of the district to try to support the program to the fullest. We are very lucky to have such good support from county government and hope to continue to work together in the future." For more information about the Taylor County dead animal disposal program, please contact them at 270-465-8554.

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

Although it was a mock accident for the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day, an all terrain vehicle (ATV) accident and rescue staged at the UK Research and Education Center on June 2 was real enough to the children watching. In the demonstration, a young girl was pinned under an ATV and had to be rescued by Princeton Fire and Rescue and Caldwell County Emergency Medical Services personnel.

Danny Sherrill of the Caldwell and Lyon County Conservation Districts said that the children asked if the accident was real because it looked so believable. Dale Dobson of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture announced the accident over a public address system, explaining each step in the emergency procedure for the accident. Dobson stated that a real accident would be handled similarly to the mock one and told the children that we are each responsible for our own safety.

More than 100 children attended the

day long Progressive Agriculture Safety Day, which was sponsored by the Caldwell and Lyon County Conservation Districts. Sherrill, the education director for both districts, and Connie Gray, the Division of Conservation field representative, served as coordinators for the event.

There were several stations at which the children learned about a different aspect of farm and home safety. At the power take-off (PTO) safety station, local farmer Kenton Veid spoke to the children about PTO Safety on the farm and how important it is to be always take safety precautions. Caldwell County Deputy Sheriff Tony Noel talked with the children about the importance of wearing a helmet and other recommended safety steps while on an ATV. Bung Grain Elevator personnel demonstrated the dangers of improper use of grain storage and handling equipment. At the fire safety station, Princeton Fire Chief Brent Francis

taught the children how important it is to check the smoke alarm in the home and to always remember to check the battery in it, and each child was given a smoke alarm, courtesy of the Optimist Club and the Caldwell and Lyon County Conservation Districts.

Other stations included electrical safety, chemical safety, lawn mower safety, sun safety and roadway safety. The Caldwell and Lyon County FFA members and Lyon County Youth Board also provided recreational activities for the youth.

"The conservation districts and the boards of supervisors appreciate the individuals who volunteered and the businesses and organizations that made contributions to the event. The safety day would not have been possible without the support of our communities," Sherrill said. Plans are already underway for the 2012 Progressive Agriculture Safety Day.

Spencer County Sponsors Local Cost Share Program

The Spencer County Conservation District is very blessed to be one of the 78 districts in the state to be on a millage tax. They have always taken pride in making the most of the tax dollars that come in. They do this with numerous education programs, as well as assistance to the farmers and landowners in the county throughout the year. The district also administers the County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP). When the district supervisors heard that there would be changes to the CAIP program this year concerning the inability to pay for fertilizer, the board saw this as a chance to use their local funds to help.

Chairman Glen Goebel saw that the local budget would have enough carry-over that they might be able to come up with the money to assist anyone that was applying for seeding and lime through the CAIP program. The board put together an application and rules and regulations for their program and allocated \$50,000 to it. It would have a 50 percent cost share with a maximum of \$1,000 per landowner. The money could be used for fertilizer according to a soil test or topdressing pastureland.

When the signups ended there were 59 applications for assistance, which the board is confident they will be able to pay as all 59 landowners will not reach

the \$1,000 maximum. They feel that this is a great success and are thankful to be able to assist the struggling agriculture community. So far they have paid out over \$28,000. The board says they will use any opportunity they have to both protect the natural resources and ensure the viability of the land. Any time you can contribute back to your community in a responsible way is a success, and the district feels they will have many more success stories in the future. The board thanks administrative secretary Wanda Stevens and district technician Doloras Richardson for all of their hard work. Without them, this program would not be possible.

KACD Auxiliary Scholarships Announced

The Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Auxiliary has announced their annual scholarships for the 2012-2013 school year. As in previous years, the three scholarships will be available to three groups of students who are planning to enter the agriculture or conservation of natural resources field.

The George Crafton Memorial Scholarship is available to current high school seniors who are enrolled to attend college. The Natural Resources Scholarship is available to current college students. The Betty Barrick/Non-Traditional Scholarship is available to

non-traditional students who are at least 25 years of age.

Each of these \$1,000 scholarships is funded through auxiliary money making projects, contributions and gifts from memorials.

To be eligible for one of these scholarships, a student must fill out the appropriate scholarship application (found on the Division of Conservation website at <http://conservation.ky.gov/Pages/Scholarships.aspx>) and attach high school and any college transcripts, two current letters of recommendation and

an essay on the topic listed on the scholarship application form.

The applications should be submitted to the student's local conservation district so that the districts can then send all applications into the Division of Conservation by March 1, 2012.

Scholarships will be awarded at the 2012 Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention, which will be held July 29-31, 2012.

Students Educated on Soil Conservation Benefits in Laurel County

David Coffey, technician for the Laurel County Conservation District, and Harry Evans, soil scientist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), were among the many presenters who spoke to 423 Laurel County students about the importance of conservation at a field day sponsored by Laurel County Cooperative Extension. The three-day event was held at Feltner 4-H Camp in Laurel County.

Students from five schools from Laurel County participated in this outdoor program designed to educate students about the importance of preserving and protecting their environment. There were six stations hosted by different

agencies that specialize in knowledge about the environment and agriculture.

Coffey and Evans spoke about the prevention of soil erosion at their station. Coffey presented a demonstration about what would happen if there were no vegetation to protect the soil from heavy rainfall. He demonstrated how the soil would erode into the creeks causing water pollution. He pointed out that soil displacement would result in lower crop yields, less food produced and less profit for the farmer. Evans performed a demonstration that showed soil movement from rain drops hitting bare soil versus vegetated soil. Evans also demonstrated to students the dif-

ference in the productivity of soil through the use of soil profiles. Students were educated about why it is important to maintain good vegetative cover even around construction sites.

Students asked many questions at all stations at the encouragement of their teachers. The Laurel County Cooperative Extension personnel feel that it is important that students have the opportunity to get out of the classroom to see first-hand the benefits of the world around us. The conservation district and NRCS were happy to be able to assist with this important endeavor.

Fleming County Conservation District Assists With Outdoor Classroom

The Ward Elementary outdoor classroom was established in 1994 through a lease agreement with property owners Mr. and Mrs. James Rogers for \$1 a year. The outdoor classroom project includes partnerships with several agencies on its development of specific aspects of the classroom. However, no one had addressed that there was no sign marking the outdoor classroom's existence or identifying the trees species or the wetland area until the



Fleming County Conservation District became involved. The conservation district applied for and was awarded \$1,522.50 in environmental grant funds through the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program to cover the cost of needed signage. The conservation district wanted to install a permanent sign that would identify the beautiful entrance to classroom grounds and the partner agencies and sponsors.

Additional markers and signs would be provided to aid in identifying specific teaching areas of the classroom.

Ward Elementary in Fleming County has approximately 200 students who have the opportunity to incorporate the great outdoors into their studies. Their outdoor classroom includes a pond and wetland ecosystem complete with a shelter for viewing and studying aquat-

ics and aquatic species, numerous tree species identified now by markers installed by Kentucky Division of Forestry and a walking trail that boosts the ever growing and changing beauty of the great outdoors. The outdoor classroom is available for use by all schools in Fleming and surrounding counties in addition to Ward Elementary. Each year the outdoor classroom provides teachers a

complete teaching tool that incorporates the great outdoors into a learning experience for more than 1,500 students. And now with the cooperation with the Fleming County Conservation District and the environmental grant proceeds, the classroom has a beautiful sign that greets students and visitors and identifies its large variety of trees and the ecosystem for all to see.

Daviess County Junior Board Wins Award

The Daviess County Conservation District has something of which they can be proud. They have one of the few conservation district junior boards in the state of Kentucky. They also have won the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts' Junior Board of the Year award for the second year in a row. The Daviess County Conservation District Board of Su-

pervisors even gives up their pay each month to support the activities of the junior board.



Junior Board member receiving award from KACD representative Shane Wells.

The Daviess County Conservation District Junior Board has been in existence for several years. The junior board consists of approximately 30 members from four

local schools (Apollo High School, Daviess County High School, Whitesville Trinity High School and Owensboro Catholic High School). The junior board is involved in several activities throughout the year. Those activities include pumpkin painting at the local Boys and Girls Club, assisting with agriculture days at local elementary schools and a beautification project at the Hillcrest Nursing Home.

The Daviess County Junior Conservation District Board was honored with \$500 from the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts at the annual convention in 2011.

Conservation Partnership Developed Amid Disaster

Reprinted from Fall 2011 issue of *Land, Air & Water magazine*

This summer, many counties experienced extreme weather that wreaked havoc across the Commonwealth. Properties were flooded, creek banks suffered excessive erosion and debris was scattered in the wake of wind and rain. These weather events caused more damage and destruction than many county and city municipalities could deal with on their own without creating an economic hardship.

Consequently, many counties received disaster declarations and with them gained eligibility for funding assistance through the federal Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP).

Since January 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Kentucky Division of Conservation and local conservation districts have implemented more than \$30 million statewide in EWPP funds to help communities recover from natural disasters.

The EWPP, authorized by Congress and administered by the NRCS, provides

technical and financial assistance to preserve life and property threatened by debris, erosion and flooding. Assistance can be provided for debris removal (broken, hanging and undercut trees) or impending debris along streams, creeks or bridges. Help is also available for severe erosion along stream banks that pose a danger to houses, nonfederal roads and other infrastructures.

The EWPP requires a local sponsor, such as a fiscal court, city council or conservation district, to submit a letter of request to the NRCS requesting EWPP assistance. The sponsors provide the legal authority to do the repair work, obtain necessary permits, contribute in-kind funds and maintain emergency measures. Up to 75 percent of the construction cost may be authorized with the remaining 25 percent coming from the local sponsor. Sponsors must enter into a project agreement with NRCS, and much of the repair work must meet specific time frames.

“The EWPP partnership between NRCS, Division of Conservation and conservation districts may be one of the most valuable services provided to counties that suffer enormous repair costs following severe storms,” said Steve Coleman, director of the Kentucky Division of Conservation.

Partnering agencies have trained personnel from conservation districts to work as inspectors for many of the local EWPP projects. As a result, a pool of qualified and local technicians work to ensure that standards and specifications are met during repair of project areas.

Once again, another Kentucky conservation partnership has managed to address resource concerns and preserve life and property effectively and efficiently amid disaster declarations when communities and local units of government depend on our assistance even more.



Above: Stream bank erosion in Carter County caused by a severe storm.

Right: Restoration from Emergency Watershed Protection Program funding assistance.



Butler County Tree Seedling Giveaway

On March 25, 2011, the Butler County Conservation District sponsored their annual tree seedling giveaway. This year nearly 100 people came out despite the cool weather to get trees. The event, which was scheduled for the entire day, ended only four hours after it started when the last trees were given away around noon. At times lines of people formed in the parking lot waiting for their turn to get trees seedlings which were contained in buckets in the front of the building.

The most popular variety this year was

the flowering Dogwood. Other types available were eastern Redbud, Pecan, Pawpaw and white Pine. Participants were limited to a total of five white Pines and any combination of five of the other varieties. Most people wanted their limit of 10 trees. Common questions asked about the trees included how tall they would get and how fast they would grow.

Ryan Pendley, a district conservation technician stated, "We have had great success in the last few years giving away ornamental, nut bearing and

shade trees. We hope to be able to increase our numbers over the next few years since this program is such a great outreach for our district."

It is currently time for tree seedlings to be ordered for next year's giveaway. For more information, visit the Division of Forestry's website at <http://forestry.ky.gov/statenurseriesandtreeseedlings/Pages/default.aspx>.

Washington County Holds Field Day

The Washington County Conservation District helped to sponsor a very successful field day on the Saint Catharine Farm in Springfield on July 14. Due to a limited budget, the district does not sponsor a field day every year, so when they get the chance they like to do a good job of showcasing conservation practices as well as new and innovative farming techniques. Saint Catharine Farm is located just outside of Springfield and has been a working farm for over 100 years. Saint Catharine Farm is on the Saint Catharine of Sienna Convent property and is the home of Saint Catharine College. The farm is mainly used for beef cattle production and takes pride in their Kentucky home grown beef. The farm also takes pride in providing food for the motherhouse. Throughout the years, the farm has



Beekeeping demonstration



"Rollover tractor" display

implemented many best management practices that have included timber stand improvement, rotational grazing, diversion ditches, integrated pest management and nutrient management practices.

Washington County Cooperative Extension, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington County Conservation District and local farmers all

came together to make some non-traditional practices part of the field day this year. They showcased wetlands, bee keeping and bees' role in pollination, technology and GPS navigation, farm safety featuring the "rollover tractor," forages and hay wrapping, gardening, rock waterways and conservation practices (both from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water

Quality Cost Share Program) that had been implemented.

Over 150 people attended the farm tour and then returned to a meal on the farm provided by the Cattleman's Association. The district found that many



Gardening demonstration

non-traditional clients were there as well as farmers and landowners from all over the county. Field days are an excellent opportunity for very good public exposure, especially to those that do not live on the farm. The district also had a display set up about district programs

and activities and showcased their rental equipment. The district is very appreciative of the many sponsors and presenters for making this field day a success. This is a great way for a district to get their name out there and show the public that natural resources are important to all of us. For more information on this field day or other district activities, contact the Washington County Conservation District at 859-336-7777.

Fox Creek Watershed Multiple Purpose Structure Under Construction

Fox Creek Multiple-Purpose Structure #4 was constructed in 1968 by the local watershed conservancy and conservation districts with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) to reduce the possibility of flooding to agricultural land. This earthen dam and lake were constructed south-east of Flemingsburg near the community of Wallingford. Later, a recreation area was developed that is now a beautiful campground for campers relaxing and enjoying a good fishing retreat. The Fox Creek

#4 earthen dam continues to serve its original purpose but has been classified as high hazard, according to the Kentucky Division of Water's Dam Safety Section due to the dam's age and the potential for a heavy rain event to produce enough precipitation to cause the water to flow over the earthen dam, which might cause a sudden and total breach of the dam. Designs and specifications provided by SCS in the late 1960s for these structures commonly utilized the earthen dam because most land lying within the dam breach zones was used primarily for agricultural use, so the potential for catastrophic damage was almost not existent. However, over the years agriculture land has been replaced by residential development thus creating need for safety standards to be upgraded to guard public safety in case of a sudden breach of the dam.

Due to the high hazard classification of Fox Creek Multiple Purpose Structure #4, the Fox Creek Watershed Conservancy District was required to complete an environmental analysis that includes the development of an emergency action plan. This was aided by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) engineers and data acquired from their "area of potential im-

pact" maps based on digital elevation models. This information may not be as precise as surveyed breach maps, but it can provide districts with adequate information in developing the emergency action plan to control downstream development and make accurate



decisions on the future of these watershed structures. Fox Creek Watershed Conservancy District, in conjunction with Fleming County Conservancy District, Fleming County Fiscal Court and input from sev-

eral public informational meetings, completed their analysis and determined it to be in the best interest of the community and recreation area to renovate the structure rather than decommission it. Once completed, the renovations will reinforce and redesign the dam to be a safer source of flood control, while maintaining the recreational and wildlife area.

Project renovation of the structure was awarded by sealed bid to the firm Free Contracting, Inc. from Lexington, and Schnable Engineering provided the construction designs with an estimated completion date of December 2011.

In November 2010 the gate valve on the Fox Creek dam was opened to allow for a controlled drain of the lake so as to not affect downstream landscape. The lake pool was gradually reduced to allow for the commencement of construction in January. Construction included removing the earthen

dam and replacing it with 10,000 cubic yards of highly durable roller compacted concrete, the first of this type of material and design being utilized in Kentucky. Once total renovations are complete, the 295 foot wide and 20-foot-high reinforced dam will have included over 2,000 cubic yards of conventional concrete and over 280,000 pounds of rebar, which along with the roller compacted concrete will bring the structure up to safety code allowing the over the top chute to control excess water flow in case of a sudden major rain event. Total cost of the renovations is expected to near \$4.1 million with approximately 90 percent of the funds provided federally through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, as part of the plan to modernize infrastructures, jumpstart the economy and create jobs. Additional funding will be provided through a grant from the Department for Local Government and the Fox Creek Watershed Conservancy District. The project will also provide a boost to the local economy as much of the material being used will be supplied by local businesses and a large portion of the work will be done by local residents.

Feedback gained by the Fleming County Conservation District board



indicates that many residents protected by the dam from flooding are pleased that renovations are taking place. Campers and outdoor enthusiasts who take advantage of the recreation

area have more mixed feelings, most agreeing it needs to be a safe impoundment and continued flood protection in that area is necessary, but the damage to the environment, fish and wildlife that they see as inevitable during the

Fox Creek Watershed Multiple Purpose Structure, continued

upgrades concerns them. NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Natural Resources Jack Kuhn was quoted in the Maysville Independent as saying, "A small pool will remain below the level of the current drain gate during work, and it may take three to four years for restoration of fish and wildlife habitat in and around the lake to return."

Whether the lake is utilized for flood control or for recreation the dam had to be brought back into compliance or decommissioned according to state regulations, and the watershed conservancy district determined this was the best solution for that area. As compliance upgrades on the Fox Creek Multiple

Purpose Structure #4 continues, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Division of Conservation, Fox Creek Watershed Conservancy District and the Fleming County Conservation District will monitor the progress and be available to address the public's questions or comments.

For more information on watershed dam rehabilitation or this project please visit www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov or conservation.ky.gov.



Opposite top: Taken when drainage had begun in the lake.

Opposite bottom: Drainage is almost completed.

Above: Construction is currently ongoing.

Butler County's Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

The Butler County Conservation District and the Butler County Farm Bureau sponsored the Sixth Annual Butler County Progressive Agriculture Safety Day on April 13, 2011. The event, held at the Morgantown City Park, brought together approximately 160 fourth-grade students and 40 volunteers to teach and learn about safety on and off the farm.

Students from the two elementary schools arrived at the park at 8:30 am. After a group picture the children were divided into four smaller groups and began a rotation through various learning stations. Topics presented at this

year's safety day were outdoor safety, drug awareness, sun safety, water safety, electricity safety, and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety. The presenters were from various agencies including the Butler County Conservation District, the Butler County Cooperative Extension Service, Kentucky State Police, Butler County Sheriff's Department, and Warren Rural Electric Cooperative.

Along with monetary donations from the Butler County Conservation District and the Butler County Farm Bureau, the Progressive Agriculture Foundation donated t-shirts and goodie bags

for all participants and volunteers. The Progressive Agriculture Foundation also provided training for each Progressive Agriculture Safety Day Coordinator and assistance throughout the year for any questions or problems the coordinators may have had.

By 2 p.m. the students had rotated through six stations, eaten lunch and a snack and completed an evaluation form. The students left with a little less energy than when they arrived, and the volunteers left exhausted yet pleased that hopefully they had made a difference in a young person's life.

Kentucky Farm Bureau Regional Teacher Workshops

During the month of June, Kentucky Farm Bureau offered eight teacher workshops throughout the state. Conservation district employees and Kentucky Division of Conservation staff from western Kentucky attended the workshop on June 16 at Lone Oak Middle School in Paducah.

The six-hour workshop had training sessions on the Project Food, Land and People curriculum; Kentucky Agriculture Adventures Program; and agriculture industry curriculum. Conservation district employees and Kentucky Divi-

sion of Conservation staff participated in the hands-on learning activities presented during the workshops.

The Agricultural and Environmental tour took place at Broadbent Meats in Kuttawa. The group arrived in time for a wonderful box lunch featuring Kentucky Proud products. The guest speaker for lunch was Kentucky Joe who did an outstanding job relating his experience on Survivor to his career in agriculture. After lunch the group heard from the owners of Broadbent Meats about their facility and how they

cured the Kentucky State Fair prize winning country ham, and the group toured the facility.

The conservation district employees would like to thank Kentucky Farm Bureau for allowing them to participate in this workshop. They feel that the information and materials provided and the connections made with the teachers are beneficial to them and that they will be able to go into the schools and use this in the classrooms and for conservation district field days.